Scarcity of lab technicians

878. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact that lab technical staffs in the primary health centres especially in rural areas are very less and even such staff are not posted; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to provide adequate technical and non-technical staffs in primary health centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As on March, 2007, out of a total 22370 Primary Health Centres [PHCs], there are 7352 Primary Health Centres functioning without lab technician in the country. Under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM], funds are provided to State/UTs Governments for upgradation/strengthening of Primary Health Centres. The State/UT Governments are, however, required to incorporate their requirement in their annual Programme Implementation Plan of NRHM.

Assistance to West Bengal on bird-flu

879. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outbreak of deadly bird-flu disease in West Bengal and other States have affected human beings recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of assistance provided by the Central Government to West Bengal Government and other State Governments to face the threat of bird-flu disease; and

(d) the present status of bird flu in various parts of the country and the steps taken by Government to ensure complete eradication of bird flu disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There has been no human case of Avian Influenza.

(c) and (d) During the recent outbreak of Avian Influenza in poultry in West Bengal, the Central Government initiated a series of actions to assist the state in the containment operations and restrict further spread of the disease. The contingency plan has been implemented in affected districts of West Bengal. The state of preparedness of the states of Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa and Assam that share a common border with West Bengal were reviewed. Other States have also been put on alert. Information, Education and Communication campaign to sensitize the community was launched in the visual and print media. Adequate stock of Oseltamivir (the drug required for prevention and treatment), and personal protective equipments were made available to West Bengal and other States.